



**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** August 30, 2021

Dear Planning Participant:

The Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts have released the Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for public review and comment. The proposed action will increase the effectiveness of invasive plant management activities within the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts. The proposal includes manual, mechanical, and chemical invasive plant treatments on National Forest System lands, including Wilderness areas, as well as on lands of other ownership to reduce invasive infestations that cover an estimated 5,811 acres. The EA and FONSI are available for review under the analysis tab on the project's webpage

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=59576>.

In February of 2021, the project proposal was listed on the Tongass National Forest's Schedule of Proposed Actions. On March 3, 2021, a combined scoping and 30-day comment period began with the publication of a legal notice in the *Petersburg Pilot* and the *Wrangell Sentinel* newspapers. All letters and comments received during scoping can be found online at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/ReadingRoom?Project=59576>. The Forest Service considered all comments in preparation of the EA. Responses can be found on the project webpage under the "Scoping" tab.

With the release of the EA and FONSI, the Forest Service is providing an additional 30-day comment period in response to public comments. Your input and ideas are important in designing, analyzing, and implementing the Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management project. When writing comments, please explain why you have a concern or a suggestion.

#### **How to Comment and Timeframe**

Specific written comments on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 days following the date of publication of the Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management project legal notice in the *Wrangell Sentinel* and the *Petersburg Pilot*, the newspapers of record for the Wrangell and Petersburg Ranger Districts. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for a proposed action documented in an EA. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only individuals or entities who submit timely and specific written comments about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Comments must be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. Persons submitting comments must provide the following information: name and address; title of the proposed



project; specific written comments; and signature or other verification of identity upon request. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are listed at 36 CFR 218.25(a)(3). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Specific written comments for the Responsible Official may be submitted via mail, other delivery service, or fax to:

Carey Case  
Attn: "Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management"  
PO Box 1328  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
907-772-5995 (fax)

Comments may also be submitted through the project's comment database at:  
<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=59576>. Electronic comments shall be in a format compatible with the current version of MS Word.

Hand-delivered comments can also be received at either district office in Wrangell (525 Bennett St.) or Petersburg (12 North Nordic Dr.), Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., except holidays. For continued public safety during the ongoing pandemic, hand-delivered comments will be accepted by appointment only. In Wrangell call: 907-874-2323. In Petersburg call: 907-419-6158.

For more information about the project, please contact Carey Case at 907-772-5906 or [carey.case@usda.gov](mailto:carey.case@usda.gov).

If you would like to continue to receive information from the Forest Service regarding the Wrangell-Petersburg Invasive Plant Management project, please sign up to join our electronic mailing system for public outreach:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=NEPA\\_53098\\_S](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAFS/subscriber/new?topic_id=NEPA_53098_S).

We appreciate your interest and look forward to your participation. Your input and ideas help ensure a successful project.

Sincerely,



THEODORE SANDHOFER  
District Ranger

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CLINT KOLARICH  
District Ranger

cc: Carey Case, Joni Johnson